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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/541,804	04/03/2000	Rachel K.E. Bellamy	Y0R000122US1(8728-370)	4844

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EXAMINER

MIRZA, ADNAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Applicati n N

09/541,804

Examiner

Adnan M Mirza

Applicant(s)

BELLAMY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosin et al (U.S. 6,295,057) and further in view of Williams et al (U.S. 5,945,988).

As per claims 1, 15, 29 Rosin disclosed a method of user-defined structured interaction online, comprising the steps of: defining social interaction genre (col. 9, lines 33-45); creating an operational instance of the genre (col. 7, lines 1-33), said instance being initialized to a predetermined state; monitoring input from online users operatively connected to said instance; and broadcasting the updated state to all online users operatively connected to the instance (col. 13, lines 59-67).

Rosin failed to disclose updating a state of the instance and responding to user's requests if said input satisfies a criteria set by the instance's interaction rules. In the same field of endeavor Williams disclosed the user elects to forego recording any of the program suggestions made in step 410, system controller simply continues to monitor and update user preferences (col. 11, lines 58-61).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to have incorporated updating a state of the instance and responding to user's requests if

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said input satisfies a criteria set by the instance's interaction rules as taught by Williams in the method of Rosin to allow updating in order to dynamically configuring the system according to the updated preferences.

3. As per claim 2 Williams disclosed wherein the step of defining social interaction genre includes one of copying and modifying a previously defined interaction genre (col. 15, lines 21-26).
4. As per claim 3 Rosin disclosed wherein the step of defining social interaction genre includes specifying rules of a graphic representation of the genre, including rules specifying how interactions are represented (col. 13, lines 59-67).
5. As per claim 4 Rosin disclosed wherein the graphic representation includes specified symbols representing respective users' roles (col. 14, lines 7-15).
6. As per claim 5 Rosin disclosed wherein the graphic representation include specified distances from references to proportionally represent action or non-action of users (col. 7, lines 9-18).
7. As per claim 6 Rosin disclosed wherein the graphic representation includes specified positions representing status of respective users (col. 16, lines 12-28).
8. As per claim 7 Rosin disclosed wherein said step of creating an operation instance of a genre includes setting genre parameters (col. 13, lines 58-67).
9. As per claim 8 Rosin disclosed wherein said genre parameters include genre roles (col. 13, lines 58-67).
10. As per claim 9 Rosin disclosed wherein said genre parameters include rule parameters (col. 13, lines 58-67).

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11. As per claim 10 Rosin disclosed wherein said input includes one of text messages, audio clips and video clips (col. 16, lines 12-28).
12. As per claims 11,23,28 Williams disclosed wherein said input includes the user's change in roles by dragging and dropping of graphics elements of the graphic representation of the state of the instance (col. 13, lines 55-66).
13. As per claim 12 Williams disclosed wherein said user's requests include requesting to ask a question (col. 10, lines 19-23).
14. As per claim 13 Williams disclosed wherein said user's requests include a request for a clarification (col. 7, lines 52-62).
15. As per claim 14 Williams disclosed wherein said step of monitoring includes monitoring the passage of time between inputs by a user (col. 8, lines 49-55).
16. As per claim 16 Williams disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance and executing specified actions in response to enforcement rules includes sending the rule violator a message (col. 11, lines 31-45).
17. As per claim 17 Williams disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance and executing specified actions in response to enforcement rules includes disconnecting a user violating said rules from the current instance (col. 11, lines 31-45).
18. As per claim 18 Williams disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance and executing specified actions in response to enforcement rules includes barring a user violating said rules from future connections for a specified period of time (col.11, lines 31-45).
19. As per claims 19,24,31-32 Williams disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance and executing specified actions in response to enforcement rules includes modifying

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an iconic representation of a user violating said rules in a graphic representation of the genre instance (col. 15, lines 26-40).

20. As per claim 20 Williams disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance in response to interaction rules includes changing the genre of the instance (col. 9, lines 31-42).

21. As per claim 21 William disclosed wherein the graphic representation of the instance is changed in response to the changing of its genre (col. 9, lines 31-42).

22. As per claim 22 William disclosed wherein said step of updating the state of the instance includes changing one or more genre parameters including genre roles (col. 9, lines 31-42).

23. As per claims 25-27 Rosin disclosed wherein said step of broadcasting the updated state of the instance includes broadcasting the instance's genre rules (col. 13, lines 59-67).

24. As per claim 30 Williams disclosed wherein said clearance signal is given based on data on users stored in the user database (col. 11, lines 1-18).

As to applicant's argument as follows:

25. Applicant argued that prior art did not disclosed "social interaction genre and social interactive session" that includes at least a structured interaction between/among humans that takes place via networked services.

As to applicant's argument Rosin disclosed "The user may desire to switch quickly between Internet content and television programming. An overlying menu of channels may be activated at any time on the screen to provide a single uniform interface to navigate among Internet sites and

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television stations (col. 9, lines 32-38). Also in one embodiment of the system, a specific dedicated menu for each situation, such as browsing, sending email, reading email, or retrieving email, is made available to the user (col. 12, lines 40-43). One ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention can relate "social interactive sessions and social interactive genre" as having emailing and switching between the interactive channels.

### ***Conclusion***

**26. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (703)-305-4633.

26. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dharia Rupal can be reached on (703)-305-4003. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239.

28. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-746-7239 (For Status Inquiries, Informal or Draft Communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT");

(703)-746-7239 (For Official Communications Intended for entry, please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE"),

(703)-746-7238 (For After Final Communications).

29. Any Inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

Any response to a final action should be mailed to:

BOX AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C.20231

Or faxed to:

Application/Control Number: 09/541,804

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Receptionist, Crystal Park II,  
2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

A handwritten signature consisting of the letters 'AM' in a stylized, cursive font.

Adnan Mirza

Examiner

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rupal Dharia'.

**RUPAL DHARIA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**